

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, September 22, 1999

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. EWING).

## DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
September 22, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable THOMAS W. EWING to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

## PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We pray, O gracious God, that all the good values of daily living will come to us and nurture us along the way. While we pray for the wonders of faith and hope and love, our prayer is that our lives will be encouraged by the marvelous gifts that have come from You, our creator and redeemer, and from the lives of those near to us.

May we, O God, so live our lives in response to these blessings that our words and deeds will be marked by a spirit of thanksgiving and praise, of appreciation and adoration for all the wondrous benedictions we have received and for the kindness and generosity of our colleagues, our family and our friends.

In Your name we pray. Amen.

## THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. LEE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 15 one-minutes on each side.

## WORLDWIDE HEROIN CRISIS

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, the world is now awash in deadly heroin. Last week, the New York Times reported that Afghanistan now produces three-quarters of the world's supply of opium, the basic ingredient for heroin. Production is soaring under Taliban control, and another 270 tons of heroin may be available from the coming bumper opium crop in Afghanistan.

In addition, we have Burmese heroin aplenty, and here at home we are awash in Colombian heroin that is purer, cheaper, and ever more deadly than we all have seen in the past.

Today, the United States heroin market, especially along the East Coast, is dominated by this Colombian heroin, while Europe is facing the massive Asian flood of heroin; and with a recent new twist, our European friends are also seeing more and more Colombian cocaine as well.

All of this opium and heroin production flourishes, especially where there is no government or weaker, ineffective government unable or unwilling to control illicit narcotics. This is a collective challenge for the international community which must and has an obligation to face collectively for the benefit of our children.

## NEW WORLD BILL COLLECTORS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the U.N. says we owe them a billion dollars and if we do not pay we will lose our vote. The U.N. also said they accepted three new member countries. All three are smaller than the hometowns of my colleagues. One has 8,000 people.

Now, if that is not enough to tax our peacekeeping, check this out. These three countries will have three votes. We will still have one vote.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. The truth is the United Nations owes Uncle Sam \$6 billion for saving their international assets year in and year out.

I say it is time for Congress to tell these New World bill collectors to shove their debt up their charter. Think about that.

I yield back the big vote we will lose at the United Nations.

## BROAD-BASED TAX RELIEF IS BEST ANSWER

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, the average working family in Nevada toiled until May 14 of this year just to pay their tax bill. Now, this seems not only unbelievable but unconscionable, as well. However, it is true, and here is why:

Mr. Speaker, Americans are paying a record-high 21 percent of their gross domestic product in taxes, the highest since World War II according to the Congressional Budget Office.

The average U.S. household will pay approximately \$5,307 more in taxes to their Government than it needs over the next 10 years according to the Congressional Research Service.

The typical American working family pays more than 38 percent of its income in total taxes, more than it spends on food, clothing, and shelter combined. The average household pays \$9,445 in federal income taxes alone, which is twice what it paid in 1985.

Is it any wonder that Americans feel as though they are working harder than ever but cannot seem to get ahead?

Broad-based tax relief is the best answer. Working families should not be working for Washington. Rather, Washington should be working for families.

I yield back any change we have in our pockets.

## GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION

(Ms. DeLAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, another week in America, another mass shooting. Seven people killed at Ft. Worth, Texas, four of them children. Every day 13 children are killed by guns in America. Yet, this Congress does nothing.

Opponents to gun safety laws say that no law could have prevented the Ft. Worth tragedy. They may be right. But just because we cannot save all of